

Senior Affairs Advisory Board

Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Meeting called to order by B.J. Curry Spitler.

Members present: Millie Acasio, Flora Calem, Dolli Cutler, John Patrick Ford, Laura Impastato, William Liu, BJ Curry Spitler, Rosemary White-Pope **Not present:** Sam Duran, Pauline Gilbert, Joe Horiye, Leane Marchese, Nicholas Trunzo **Staff:** Rudy Fernandez, Diana Gray, Pam Suarez, Suzanne Prevost **Guests:** Sharon Johnson, Mitchell Perey, Judith Sorrells

Discussion:

The following topics were discussed:

- August 13, 2003 minutes were approved as presented.
- Mitchell Perey, a **guest speaker** and owner of Dignified Living Choices, Inc. presented information on the free services that his agency offers senior citizens within San Diego County. During his presentation, Mitchell distributed informational brochures. He went into detail about the comprehensive research and referral services that his agency provides senior citizens within San Diego. For more information on these free services, Mitchell can be reached at (619) 846-3000. Mitchell also announced that on October 2, 2003 the San Diego Council on Aging will hold its Fourth Annual Successful Aging Conference in Balboa Park at the Veteran's War Memorial Building located at 3225 Zoo Drive from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To R.S.V.P. for the event, please call (619) 685-8883.
- Sharon Johnson the City of San Diego's Homeless Services Administrator was a **guest speaker** and she presented information on the increasing numbers of homeless seniors living within San Diego. Sharon noted that the problem was difficult to assess because many homeless seniors do not appear to be homeless. Sharon highlighted this fact with an informational brochure she distributed titled "The Unseen Many: A Needs Assessment of Homeless and Near-Homeless Seniors in San Diego." Sharon estimated that approximately 7% of the homeless people that are served by the City of San Diego's Winter Shelter Program (and these are generally chronic homeless – meaning they have spent years on the street). And it is expected that the numbers of homeless seniors will increase significantly over the next five years in part because the homeless population is aging.
- Housing Task Force – John Patrick Ford reported that the committee met in August to discuss what advocacy role would be taken. Because of the protocol issue being researched by the Senior Affairs Advisory Board, it was determined that the committee

would not proceed with any advocacy issues until direction was received on the correct protocol to take in such instances.

- Transportation Task Force – Rudy Fernandez reported that the Seniors Ride Free proposal was being considered and things seemed promising as to its being accepted. And although he did not have any new information to report, he expected a favorable outcome.
- Transportation Survey – William (Bill) Liu met with Sam Duran who assisted him with getting a team of interviewers together for the Transportation Survey. Susan Millman, of the Urban Corps, met with the group of interviewers. Sam Duran plans to participate in the field to do the survey. A letter of introduction from the Senior Affairs Advisory Board will be drafted for use by the interviewers. Diana Gray will contact the appropriate area Police Stations to notify them of the survey being performed in their respective precincts. Millie Acasio volunteered to create picture I.D. badges for the interviewers. Millie is located in the CAB lobby. B.J. Spitler is donating the funds to offset the cost of the picture I.D. cards for the interviewers. Bill will get the survey to Rudy Fernandez who will take care of getting 1,000 copies of the survey printed up. All material distributed for the survey should be collected and turned over to Bill when the survey is complete.
- Web Site – Nicholas Trunzo was not present to report.
- Handling of Protocol – B.J. Spitzer provided a handout on suggested protocol for sending advocacy letters on City Letterhead. It was accepted as presented by a unanimous vote.

Announcements/Closing Remarks:

Rosemary White-Pope announced the SDG&E Light Bulb Exchange scheduled for September 18th. The event will be held at the Councilman Lewis District 4 Office, at 6385 Imperial Avenue.

Millie Acasio distributed the September edition of “The Scroll”.

Next meeting: **October 1, 2003** at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the **City Administration Building** located at 202 C Street, **12th Floor Closed Session Room**, San Diego, CA 92101.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.